AFL WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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# Congress Begins Probe of Wilson's Policies

PUSH RED CROSS DRIVE.—New York.—The AFL Central Trades and Labor Council is pushing with whole-hearted support the lagging 1951 Red Cross drive for $6,500,000 in New York City and $85,000,000 nationally. L. to r., Moe Rosen, vice president New York Central Trades and Labor Council; Admiral William (Bull) Halsey; AFL Regional Director William Collins and Louis Donato, secretary Allied Printing Trades Council of New York, and (seated) Master Sgt. John H. Kunze, wounded in Korea.

## *Inquires Into $3 Billion Tax Credits Given Big Business*

Washington.—A House-Senate committee called Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson to explain $3 billion in tax credits granted big business in the last 5 months under the Defense Production Act.

William H. Harrison, Mr. Wilson's appointee as Defense Production Administrator, was asked for complete data on the grants.

The committee, headed by Sen. Burnet R. Maybank of South Carolina, indicated that this was the starting point of an investigation that would reach into every phase of mobilization.

The United Labor Policy Committee has charged that Mr. Wilson and his whole set-up is operated by big business executives for the benefit of big business corporations.

Following Mr. Wilson to the stand will be Mr. Harrison and his assistant administrator, Maj. Gen. T. F. Farrell, retired, who is in direct charge of the tax projects; Manly Fleischmann, acting administrator of the National Production Authority; Frank R. Creedon, NPA assistant administrator, and officials of all other agencies who have had a hand in the program.

The grants are "tax amortization certificates" which Mr. Harrison issues on the recommendation of the NPA and other agencies as an "inducement" to businessmen to build new steel, railroad, aircraft, aluminum, machine tools, oil and other facilities needed for defense.

The certificates permit companies to deduct from their taxes over a 5-year period (instead of 20 to 25 years as they normally do) the cost of new defense facilities they build now. Theoretically, the certificates cover new plant and equipment useful only during the present emergency. Actually, many of the new facilities will strengthen their owners' competitive position after the emergency ends.

Since last Oct. 30, more than 600 firms have received tax certificates permitting quick write-offs totaling about $3 billion. Thousands of additional applications, representing billions of dollars, are awaiting action.

Most of the benefits handed out have gone to a handful of industrial giants, with the steel industry alone accounting for more than half the total.

About $1.1 billion of the concessions went to 5 of the largest steel producers—U. S. Steel, Bethlehem, Republic, Jones & Laughlin and American Rolling Mills Co.

Senator Maybank wants to know whether a small part of the expansion, particularly in the steel industry, would not have been carried out by private capital anyway, even if the government had not come forward with its tax write-off order. Mr. Fleischmann testified at a closed hearing earlier this month that he thought it would.

The House-Senate investigators have asked Mr. Harrison to produce a complete list of all applications received for tax certificates, what action was taken on each, an explanation of each case, the filing and action dates, and which government agencies had a hand in them.

The committee also wants information on each applicant's defense work, the amount of each expansion project which is covered by the quick write-off provision, and the names of all responsible officials in each certifying agency.

The committee has not named any specific company in which it is taking an interest.

**HOFFMAN WRITES BOOK**

New York.—Paul G. Hoffman, former director Economic Cooperation Administration, has written a book "Peace Can Be Won," published April 20, by Doubleday & Co., which favors a continuation of American overseas economic aid and information battle against communism.

CONTACT AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS.—Douala, French West Africa.—Members of the African mission of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions helped to organize the first pan-African trade union conference in history. L. to r., F. W. Dalley, United Kingdom, president ICFTU mission to Africa; Walter Hood, Australia, secretary from ICFTU headquarters in Brussels; Marcus Grant, Sierra Leone, African representative to the ICFTU, and Arthur Serou, Belgian member of mission.

# Italian Workers Reported Shocked By U. S. Big Business Ruthlessness

By SYD STOGEL
Rome Correspondent AFL News Service

Rome, Italy.—Obviously shocked by the ruthless manner in which big business took over the U. S. Defense Mobilization program, to the detriment of labor and the American consumer, Italy's free trade unions are now fighting to prevent the same thing from happening here.

Even while the Italian Defense Mobilization bill is being discussed in parliament, the Confederation of Free Trade Unions (CISL) is taking concrete steps to insure that labor will have a voice in the defense set-up and an opportunity to safeguard the interests of consumers.

A CISL delegation headed by General Secretary Giulio Pastore met with Premier Alcide De Gasperi to present labor's viewpoint on the bill for mobilization. The CISL, Mr. Pastore told the prime minister, was strongly opposed to any attempt to freeze wages. He also insisted that representatives of Italy's democratic workers be granted active participation in the economic control boards to be established under the new bill.

Premier De Gasperi stated that the CISL viewpoint would be given every consideration.

Later, the CISL executive board met in Rome to draw up a memorandum officially outlining free labor's demands for a voice in the defense program. Prime Minister De Gasperi answered the CISL memorandum with an assurance that labor would not be ignored and would play an important role in the defense project. The government leader further stated that he was arranging for meetings between CISL leaders and government officials to examine the labor proposals and to discuss ways of realizing them.

The Italian Workers Union (UIL), a small group representing a number of liberal labor unions, also went on record as opposing any move by the government to restrict labor's activity in the future. At a special meeting the UIL executive committee approved a motion declaring that "the right to strike cannot be limited by law, but only by the sense of responsibility of trade union organizations."

The CISL (the Italians pronounce it "chisel") is taking a leading role in protecting the welfare of Italy's wage earners, although it represents only a minority of the country's working population. The older CGIL (General Confederation of Italian Labor) is Communist-dominated and, naturally, is not interested in supporting any attempt by Italy to re-arm and defend itself against the red armies.

The Italian defense bill is patterned after the American Mobilization program and will enable the government to intervene in almost every branch of economy — prices, production, wages, credit, currency, trade, consumption.

# Frank A. Fitzgerald, Operating Engineer Secretary, Dies

Washington.—Frank A. Fitzgerald, 66, secretary-treasurer AFL Operating Engineers Union, died March 29 at Leland Memorial Hospital, Riverdale, Md. He had suffered a stroke.

A requiem mass was sung for Mr. Fitzgerald in St. John's Church, New Haven, Conn., on April 2, and burial was in that city.

Mr. Fitzgerald was born in New York City in 1885 and moved at an early age to New Haven. There he became an apprentice machinist and joined Local 478 of the Operating Engineers in 1911. He was elected to the general board of trustees in 1916 and as fifth vice president in 1931. Later in 1931 he became secretary-treasurer, the post he held until his death.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mazie Fitzgerald, Washington; a brother, John, and sister, Miss Helen Fitzgerald, both of New Haven.

## *San Francisco AFL Wins Defense Role*

San Francisco.—The Civil Defense program of San Francisco has expanded its Disaster Council to include representatives of organized labor.

The San Francisco Labor Council reported that this expansion came as a direct result of its urging. The council had been disturbed at the failure to give proper recognition and representation to labor in the formation of the Disaster Council.

The AFL was given 6 appointments on the enlarged council and the CIO 2.

Acting upon the recommendations of the labor representatives in the Disaster Council, the San Francisco Labor Council endorsed the city's civil defense set-up and called upon all affiliated unions to support the program.

# *NLRB Orders Polls In Building Trades*

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board for the first time in its 16-year history ordered union shop and representation elections in the building industry over the objections of 8 AFL building trades unions.

The action threw a new monkey wrench in the already snafued defense mobilization as the prospect of bargaining and union shop elections at every defense plant and home site in the nation threatened long delays in actual construction.

It took the board almost 4 years to decide under the Taft-Hartley Act that it would assume jurisdiction over the 2,000,000 workers in the industry. Former General Counsel Robert N. Denham tried a policy of elections 2 years ago and failed.

The NLRB indicated that it would ask Congress for more funds to carry out this task if its decision is to start a flood of election petitions in the thousands of construction activities all across the country.

The 5 members said that Congress clearly wanted the board to assume full jurisdiction over the industry when it passed the Taft-Hartley Act in 1947.

In the 12 years that the board operated under the Wagner Act it customarily did not assert jurisdiction over the building industry. The field was considered by members to be a collection of individual jobs not involving interstate commerce.

Even under the Taft-Hartley Act, the board's former general counsel, Robert N. Denham, argued that its election machinery could not handle the burden, and that it was unrealistic to assume active control of the building trades. The board gradually took jurisdiction, however, and the present counsel, George J. Bott, concurred in the agency's stand.

Specifically, the NLRB ordered an election among 22 companies in the Plumbing Contractors Association of Baltimore to determine whether the workers seek representation by the Plumbers and Steam Fitters Union, AFL.

The agency also directed a union-shop poll among plumbers employed by 5 companies in the Plumbing Contractors Association of Olean, N. Y. The men will vote on whether to authorize Local 500 of the Plumbers Union to negotiate a union-shop contract.

Eight other AFL unions—all members of the federation's Building and Construction Trades Department—opposed the election orders. They argued that the board would be "inundated" by similar election requests.

# *Score: Zero*

Washington.—In the month since the last scoreboard on Defense Mobilization failures there have been some changes but none fundamental enough to put the people ahead.

Here's the chart:

RENTS—Loose federal ceilings were extended to June 30. Life Magazine prints picture story on labor charges that soldiers' families are being gouged in uncontrolled areas around training camps. Housing bills stymied in Congress.

PRICES—The New York Times on April 1 reported "prices still were on the rise one month and two months after price controls were clamped on the American economy." New Office of Price Stabilization orders mean further rises instead of halting the rise.

WAGES—Still frozen tight. Chaos increases as army puts into effect escalator clauses which Economic Stabilization Administrator Eric Johnston failed to approve because they pierce 10 percent ceiling set by public-industry members of Wage Stabilization Board. Industry blocks reorganization of board by refusing to let it settle disputes. New York Times put the situation this way: "As to prices, the controls are, on the whole, soft. As to wages, the controls are, on the whole, hard."

TAXES—Because the Treasury made a $6 billion "mistake" in computing 1951 fiscal taxes, Secretary Snyder now tells Congress a second increase in workers' withholding taxes this year would not be necessary. He asked for prompt action on his original "soak-the-worker" measure.

MANPOWER—Gen. Lucius D. Clay, assistant to Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson, resigns. Mr. Wilson says in his first quarterly report compulsory manpower controls will not be necessary, but he still holds the power granted by President Truman to ask for draft and regimentation of workers.

REPRESENTATION IN DEFENSE PROGRAM—None for labor.

# 'Wetback' Issue Another Shocking Scandal of Low U. S. Morals

New York.—The New York Times, no friend of labor, gave front page play to the first of a series of articles by its special correspondent, Gladwin Hill, on the shocking use of illegal "wetback" Mexican workers in southwestern United States.

The AFL National Farm Labor Union, building trades and railway unions are leading a fight to have the Congress and officers of the U. S. government responsible for the scandalous situation halt the illegal importation of "wetbacks," a name given Mexican workers who wade or swim the Rio Grande river to get into this country illegally to work.

Mr. Hill has just completed a year's study and 5,000-mile tour of the 1,600-mile long border area between the U. S. and Mexico over which he estimates 1,000,000 Mexicans pass illegally annually. Following are excerpts from his first article (March 25):

"The impression is widespread that these Mexicans simply come over as a regular essential and harmless supplement to the domestic harvest forces.

"The fact is that they are attracted by the glittering prospect of high American wages, and in many cases actively recruited by American ranchers or their representatives, only to work for wages that have been described by United States immigration officers as tantamount to peonage and under conditions compared on the same authority to ante-bellum slavery.

"The 'wetback,' a penniless fugitive, has to take whatever wages are offered, which, because of the multitude of 'wetbacks' available, in practice are at a bare existence level or below it. His traditional housing is the crudest form of shack or hovel, wherever he can find it, or just the open air. His status denies him access to regular community legal and welfare agencies. If he doesn't like his situation he can go back where he came from. There are thousands of other hopefuls south of the border ready to take his place.

"In many sections of Texas, Arizona, California and other areas they depress the general standards of wages and working conditions below the established American level. Instead of supplementing the domestic labor force they undercut it, taking jobs from tens of thousands of native citizens, farm and urban workers alike.

"In the agricultural field particularly the resulting native 'displaced persons' have to join the great stream of migrant labor that fans out from the ally northward all the way from New York to Oregon, working a good deal of the time for substandard wages and working conditions and, in turn, taking jobs from resident local workers.

"The 'wetback' traffic dwarfs the legal contracting of Mexican labor under the international agreement, and has become almost inextricably enmeshed with it. At the present time, according to the United States Employment Service, there are about 29,000 contract Mexicans in the country. Most of them were not 'imported' at all but are ex-'wetbacks' who were rounded up north of the border, processed at border immigration and consular stations, and given legal work permits under guarantees of somewhat better conditions than those accorded 'wetbacks.'

"The 'wetback' situation is of particular pertinence at this time. The defense emergency has evoked official proposals for the importation of hundreds of thousands of workers from outside the continental United States.

"Before Congress is a draft extension of the 1949 agreement between the United States and Mexico, which expires in June, governing the so-called 'importation' of Mexican farm workers under contracts, which in actuality have degenerated into the legalization of 'wetbacks.'

"Farmers sometimes profess not to be able to tell 'wetbacks' from citizens —an explanation that is scoffed at by persons who have dealt with them much and who usually are able to spot them at some distance by their dress, speech and alien demeanor. The same farmers, immigration officers note, usually are adept at pulling the 'wetbacks' out of their field crews and whisking them out of sight when the border patrol comes around.

"The nonrecognition explanation is further vitiated by the fact that often the use of 'wetbacks' goes beyond mere employment to active recruiting across the border—by personal solicitation, mail and even radio announcements—and systematic transportation once they have crossed the boundary.

"Such activities amount to conspiracy to violate the immigration laws. But proof is difficult and conviction more so.

"In general, farmers have a simple way of recognizing 'wetbacks': They will work for far less than other labor—which is why the farmer uses them."

In his second article, Mr. Hill reported that farmers acknowledged to the President's Commission on Migratory Labor last summer that they had paid field hands as low as 15 cents an hour.

"It is not extraordinary," he said, "for 'wetbacks' to report having worked for weeks only to be told that there was no cash due them. In such a circumstance the 'wetback' has little scope for argument; the farmer can just turn him in to the immigration authorities for deportation."

# Franco-Reds Join In Barcelona Strike

London, England.—Rodolfo Llopis, general secretary of the Spanish Socialist party-in-exile, said that Dictator Franco's official version of the recent strikes in Barcelona is that they were provoked by Communists.

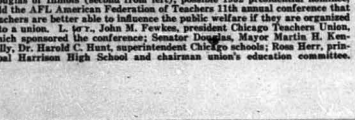
Writing in the International Socialist Conference information service, Mr. Llopis said:

"Naturally, the Communists accept this false interpretation. Once more, Falangists and Communists join hands in misleading the world.

"The real cause of the events in Barcelona is easily explained. The Spanish people have had enough of Franco. It has endured for too long an oppressive regime which, after 12 years of triumph, has not solved a single problem facing the country. The only beneficiaries of this corrupt regime have been a small number of adventurers who have enriched themselves in the most scandalous manner. To the rest of the country, the Franco dressee has left."

Mr. Llopis said that the Spanish people are starving. Even those who succeed in finding work do not earn enough to make a living. From their meagre wages high contributions are deducted to maintain a prolific Falangist union bureaucracy. The rationing system is a farce. The supply of electric current to industry in Catalonia is guaranteed for only nine hours per week. Business life is paralyzed. Capital holds back and nobody dares to invest. Everybody grumbles. The malaise permeating Spain grows daily. An explosion is inevitable at some time, under some pretext."

Be independent—buy Independence Bonds.



SAYS TEACHERS SHOULD JOIN UNIONS.—Chicago.—Sen. Paul H. Douglas of Illinois (second from left), possible 1952 presidential nominee, told the AFL American Federation of Teachers 11th annual conference that teachers are better able to influence the public welfare if they are organized into a union. So far, John M. Fewkes, president Chicago Teachers Union, which sponsored the conference; Senator Douglas, Mayor Martin H. Kennelly, Dr. Harold C. Hunt, superintendent Chicago schools; Rose Herr, principal Harrison High School and chairman union's education committee.

CHARGE RUSSIAN GENOCIDE.—New York.—AFL Vice President David Dubinsky, president AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union, gives petition to Dr. Egon Schwelb, assistant director Human Rights Division of United Nations, asking UN to investigate Russian destruction of Jewish people within Soviet Union. Others, l. to r., Adolph Held, president Jewish Labor Committee, and Joseph Baskin, general secretary Workmen's Circle.

# UN Asked to Investigate Russia's Anti-Semitism; Worse Than Hitler's

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent AFL News Service

New York.—The Jewish Labor Committee has called upon the United Nations to investigate "cultural and spiritual genocide systematically pursued against the Jewish people by the Soviet Union within its borders and which it inexorably extended to the entire sphere of influence where its regime exercises domination."

A delegation, consisting of David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU and treasurer of the Jewish Labor Committee; Adolph Held, its chairman, and Joseph Baskin, general secretary of the Workmen's Circle, presented a memorandum detailing Soviet anti-Semitism.

Jacob Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO, was also a signatory to the memorandum.

Asked how Stalin's anti-Semitic policy compared to Hitler's, Mr. Dubinsky replied:

"The only difference between them is timing. Hitler destroyed the Jews during wartime. Stalin is doing it in peacetime."

The UN Commission on Human Rights was asked to initiate an immediate investigation. Mr. Dubinsky indicated that he would ask the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, which has consultative status at the UN, to take up this protest against Soviet anti-Semitism.

Here's what the Jewish Labor Committee told the UN:

1. The Soviet Union is suppressing vital information about the Jewish citizens within its borders and in the satellite states.

2. Forced labor camps are reported to contain upward of 20 to 40 percent Jews. Thousands of letters from non-Soviet relatives are returned with the notation, "Addressee to Sender—Addressee has left."

3. The Soviet Union is silent about the fate of Jewish communities set up in the Ukraine and Crimea.

4. Jewish religious schools have been closed down by the Soviets, and those who practice Judaism are persecuted.

5. Zionism has been outlawed.

6. Liquidation of Jews in Poland, Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria is essentially the same as that prosecuted in the Soviet Union.

"Our petition touches the lives," said the Jewish Labor Committee document, "of 2 or 3 million people—the survivors of a destructive war and of the nazi holocaust. It is in the name of the victims and the sacrifices of the past, as well as in the interest of the security and peace of the future, that we appeal to the United Nations to act on this petition with firmness and determination."

## HONOR RABBI

(Special Correspondence)

Chicago.—For his work in behalf of Histadrut, the labor movement of Israel, Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, of the KAM temple, was honored by Chicago union leaders and others at a testimonial luncheon.

Chairman of the event was Stephen M. Bailey, head of the Chicago plumbers' union and vice president of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Principal speakers were George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer; the Most Rev. Bernard J. Sheil, auxiliary Catholic bishop of Chicago; Dr. Preston Bradley, pastor of the Peoples Church, and Mayor Martin H. Kennelly.

"The significance of this meeting is tremendous," said Mr. Meany. "It is only possible in America, where distinguished representatives of the Protestant and Catholic clergy pay honor to a leader of the Jewish faith before an audience of members of the American labor movement.

"They honor him for work he has done for a community 8,000 miles away. The love of freedom by workers all over the world is demonstrated by this recognition of the work of Histadrut."

# AFL to Give Rulers As Show Souvenir

Chicago.—The American Federation of Labor will have an unusual and interesting display in its 12-booth area at the 1951 Union Industries Show, May 16-26.

The moving neon-illuminated hands of a huge clock will call attention to the fact that all Americans are served by members of AFL unions every hour of the day and night in providing food, fuel, shelter, clothing, transportation and various other necessities and luxuries of our American way of life.

Visitors at the AFL booths will receive a plastic souvenir pocket ruler and may view a series of entertaining pictures and continuity projected by an automatic machine.

Graphically the exhibit will show that the AFL has been in the vanguard of every movement in the fight against communism.

It will also prove that the living standards and working conditions of all citizens, including adequate security, medical care, higher education and amusement — all a part of our American system of free enterprise—have been improved by the bulwark of democracy—the American Federation of Labor.

Are you listening to Frank Edwards!

# Britain Seeks Women Workers To Help Rearm

(From British Information Service)

London.—Leaders of the British trade unions and the employers' organizations have adopted a 5-point plan to get enough workers for Britain's 3-year $13 billion defense program.

The National Joint Advisory Council, representing all sides of industry, faces these facts:

There are almost no reserves of employable labor that can be tapped for the armament industries.

Less than 11 percent of all insured workers are jobless and many of these only temporarily.

The armed forces are taking an increasing proportion of young men out of industry. By April 800,000 men will be in the regular armed forces.

The arms program, when at its peak, will need one out of every five workers in the engineering industries to work on arms.

This must be done while at the same time increasing production of exports, to pay for the raw materials needed for increased armaments.

How can this be done? The union leaders and the employers plan these steps: (1) increase productivity through greater efficiency; (2) switching workers from production for civilian needs to arms work (3) reduction to a level of job turnover time (4) increase of overtime (5) bringing more part-time women into industry to swell the 7,400,000 women already at work.

# 5 Reasons Given For Buying Bonds

Washington.—Here are five reasons why the continued sale of U. S. Defense Savings Bonds is vitally important to the nation's economic stability at this time:

1. They are an ideal investment, backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. If Defense Bonds are not safe, then no investment or other form of saving is.

2. Defense Bonds are a liquid reserve—which means that your money is always readily available when needed, and never at a loss to the investor.

3. Defense Bonds are actually safer than cash. If lost, stolen or destroyed by fire or flood, the Treasury Department will always replace them.

4. The purchase of Defense Bonds is an effective way for the individual to help his government fight inflation. Through the sale of Defense Bonds the government obtains needed money in the way least harmful to the buying power of the dollar—without the use of bank credit.

5. The purchase of Defense Bonds is a tangible way for the individual to show his determination to safeguard the dollar's purchasing power—and to help maintain the economic stability of the nation.

# *Wilson Draws $66,000 Pension From GE*

Washington.—Records of the Securities and Exchange Commission show that Charles E. Wilson, the nation's defense mobilization czar, is drawing a pension of $66,000 a year from General Electric Co., which he headed as president until he retired to take his present post.

As Defense Mobilization Administrator with full and final authority over prices, wages, materials and manpower, he draws $22,500 annual salary.

Mr. Wilson told a news conference on March 27 (the first time he had met the press in more than 3 months since he became the top U. S. official) that:

"I am from big business resigned. When I came into government I became a bureaucrat. I ceased to be in business."

CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey, who is also president of the CIO International Union of Electrical Workers, said in a letter to The Washington Evening Star that:

"You mention Mr. Wilson's personal financial sacrifice in coming to Washington. It should be made known to your readers that in leaving BE, Mr. Wilson takes with him a life pension amounting to $66,000 a year. He will also get his government salary of $22,500 a year. In addition, he will receive $25,000 a year in dividends from his GE holdings. He will have a capital gain of more than $100,000 as a result of a 37 percent increase in the value of his GE stock in the last year. The actual truth, therefore, is that Mr. Wilson will certainly not have to engage in any personal austerity in his government post."

Mr. Wilson originally insisted that any labor union leader appointed to be his adviser must resign his presidency.

These facts are published so that Mr. Wilson's claims may be seen in their true light and the people can determine who is serving who.

# Johnston Refuses to Approve 5-Cent Wage Raise For Utility Workers

Washington.—The stabilization of wages by rule of favor and discrimination under Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston hit AFL unions again.

Mr. Johnston refused to approve a deferred 5 cents an hour wage increase to be effective April 1 negotiated last December by AFL unions representing Washington Gas Light Co.

Originally Mr. Johnston told union officials that he approved these so-called "installment" wage increases because they came in the same classification as cost-of-living escalators. Mr. Johnston has given a blanket okay to these escalators in effect prior to Jan. 25.

He now denies equal treatment for installment wage raises agreed upon prior to Jan. 25, which in many cases are less than the cost-of-living adjustments.

Mr. Johnston earlier disapproved 8 cents of an 11-cents general wage increase for the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and CIO United Packinghouse Workers. The unions, trying to help him out, postponed any economic action until May 7 to give the government a chance to get a stabilization program operating.

Mr. Johnston has refused to rule on a 6-cents an hour wage increase due April 1 to 1,000,000 railroad workers because it, like all of these other cases, would pierce the 10 percent ceiling set by the old Wage Stabilization Board 6 to 3 in its Feb. 16 decision which forced organized labor off the board.

# Wage Freeze Dooms Many to Low Rates

Washington.—Nine AFL trade and service unions charged that the government's wage regulation No. 6—opposed by organized labor—had frozen wages of 15 million trade and service employes at substandard levels.

The unions denounced the regulation as pitifully inadequate to cover service employes, millions of whom have no protection other than state minimum wage orders providing as little as 40 or 50 cents an hour.

The order also prevents trade and service employes from obtaining time and one-half after 40 hours of work.

The unions demanded that wage stabilization authorities should consider any wage below $1 an hour as substandard and subject to adjustment outside the formula.

### MISSOURI LAW INVALID

Jefferson City, Mo.—The Kinge-Thompson law prohibiting strikes in public utilities was ruled unconstitutional by Missouri State Attorney General J. E. Taylor in line with the U. S. Supreme Court's striking down a similar Wisconsin law.

### Wage Forms Available At U. S. Labor Offices

Washington.—Printed forms for reporting wage and salary increases under General Wage Regulation 6, along with instructions for completing the form, were released by the Wage Stabilization Board.

The blank forms and instruction sheets are available in quantities at all of the 50 regional and district offices of the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor, which are currently acting as field offices for the Wage Stabilization Board.

# Wage Freeze Hurts AFL in Ore Range

Hibbing, Minn.—The government's unjust and unworkable wage freeze threatens iron ore production needed in the critical steel industry for war and defense output.

Vice President Peter A. Stark of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor reports:

"With the opening of the ore shipping season on the Mesabi Range, several AFL local unions in that area will suffer a loss in membership unless the present government wage freeze order is amended to permit wage increases that compare favorably with those granted the CIO mine workers near the close of the year.

"The mining industry's manpower loss to the armed services is creating another wartime labor market that is already attracting dissatisfied AFL workers whose unions could not reopen existing contracts prior to the wage freeze because of 1951 expiration dates."

# Asks Labor Papers Oppose Rate Boost

New York.—AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, president International Labor Press of America, called on labor editors to oppose President Truman's proposal to double mailing rates on second class matter.

"Notwithstanding the fact that the labor press has never abused this second class rate mail privilege, a drastic increase in second class mail rates would have a disastrous effect on certain portions of the labor press — particularly those publications which can least afford to bear the extra burden—the local labor papers," Mr. Woll said.

He urged editors to write or wire their senators and representatives to oppose the boost.

GRAHAM TAKES OATH.—Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin gives oath of office to former Sen. Frank P. Graham of North Carolina as new administrator of Office of Defense Manpower in U. S. Department of Labor.

# Wilson at Odds With Marshall; Prices Thaw More; Wages? No

LEAD FIGHT IN ILLINOIS.—Washington.—Chicago and Illinois leaders in United Labor's fight against high prices include, l. to r., Secretary William F. Cleary of Chicago Federation of Labor; Secretary-Treasurer Stanley L. Johnson of Illinois State Federation of Labor; Joseph Keenan, secretary-treasurer AFL Building Trades Department, and Joseph M. Jacobs, Chicago attorney for many AFL unions.

Washington.—Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson's views on the nation's preparedness clashed sharply with those of Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall.

His head-on collision with General Marshall coincided with these other developments:

1. Price Stabilization Director Michael V. DiSalle put 60 percent of all grocery items under margin controls at wholesale and retail level and warned housewives not to look for any big general reductions.

2. Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston failed to get the big business friends to end their blockade of a new Wage Stabilization Board. Industry has refused to accept a compromise plan that would give the board jurisdiction over disputes other than wages.

3. A whole flock of the cutback orders of the National Production Authority became effective on April 1 and are being watched anxiously to determine whether they will cause widespread cutback unemployment. Thousands of workers may lose their jobs if plants engaged in making civilian goods run out of raw materials before defense orders are placed with them.

4. Congress was in recess with no action in sight on a new Defense Production Act that will really control prices and provide for an equitable wage stabilization program.

The whole confused situation was pointed up by James Reston writing in the New York Times. He said in part:

"The hard news on the front page of this morning's newspapers (March 29) about the cost of living and the ordinary American citizen has trouble figuring out who's ahead.

"In one column, the head of the Office of Defense Mobilization, Charles E. Wilson, saying that we were getting so strong that pretty soon no nation would dare attack us. If he were an enemy of this country, he observed, he would be scared of our progress.

"In the next column, however, the Secretary of Defense, General of the Army Marshall, was complaining about our complacency and asserting that the world situation was now more serious than it was last November.

"Mr. Wilson and General Marshall work on the 2 major parts of the same defense program. Mr. Wilson is responsible for appropriations, General Marshall for using them. Yet they differed because Mr. Wilson was saying precisely what General Marshall was complaining about: he was thinking in short-range terms, of the last 8 months, instead of the next 10 years.

"General Marshall said he was astonished at the relaxation of public and congressional support for long-term defense effort, and Mr. Wilson, in his first press conference since taking over the mobilization job 3 months ago, acted astonished about how well we were doing."

The facts are, as the United Labor Policy Committee pointed out, that the whole Defense Mobilization program as run by Mr. Wilson is headed for the rocks because the little people have no confidence in a set-up that has let prices run completely out of hand and rents go loosely controlled while freezing wages, cutting back materials that threaten the very jobs of thousands, and an administration that recommends back-breaking further taxes on workers.

All of it done without the consultation and active participation of representatives of the mass of people of the country.

# London Economist Says Charles Wilson Must Change Attitude or Be Fired

Washington.—The Economist, London weekly regarded as the most authoritative conservative business and economic journal in the world, discussed (March 3) the United Labor Policy Committee's disagreement with Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson, which concluded:

"Some of the elements of an eventual solution are apparent.

"Labor must be given a role in manpower decisions which it considers adequate.

"The President must also provide for the creation of a national labor disputes mechanism.

"And most important of all, Mr. Truman must either secure a change in the attitude of his Director of Defense Mobilization or find a new one."

In its extended analysis of the situation, The Economist made these other points:

"Part of the present crisis has its origins in the stabilization legislation itself. This was drafted, as if deliberately, to make labor's cooperation inordinately difficult.

"But even more of the trouble was manufactured gratuitously by Mr. Truman's Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization, Mr. Charles E. Wilson. The former president of the General Electric Co., like many a brook-no-interference businessman before him, came to Washington failing to understand that the government is not always best run by methods successful in industry, and that a bulldozer is not the ideal instrument for levelling psychological barriers."

### No Spare Tire Sent With New Cars Now

Detroit.—General Motors, Chrysler and Ford Motor Co. began shipping new automobiles without a spare tire.

The action was taken in anticipation of the rubber cutback of 25 percent ordered effective April 1 by the National Production Authority.

Industry spokesmen said the shortage was caused by heavy government stockpile purchases of rubber and failure of synthetic plants to deliver enough to make up the deficit.

Cutting out the spare tire was the only way the motor companies said they could continue to employ their workers full time.

# New Food Order Brings Few Cuts

Washington.—Price Stabilization Administrator Michael V. DiSalle put 60 percent of all grocery items under margin controls at retail and wholesale levels, effective April 30, and blandly assured housewives not to look for any big general reductions.

The new system is not a dollars-and-cents ceiling system, as operated in World War II and demanded again by United Labor. Mr. DiSalle said these are still six months away.

If you want to check on whether prices at the corner grocery exceed lawful ceilings after April 30—ask your grocer whether he is an independent retail store with 1950 sales volume of $75,000, or between $75,000 and $375,000, or a chain store with less than $375,000, or an independent or chain store with 1950 sales of more than $375,000.

Once you establish which group he is in, then consult the OPS chart on how much margin markup is allowed—usually a different figure for each group. And of course a different figure for almost every item on the shelf.

Remember, these ceilings are not set by the government but by the merchant's own computation on the basis of his own figures.

And the government has nobody to enforce even the ceilings the merchant finally decides are correct.

Any questions?

### SUBMITS ASIA PLAN

Lahore, Pakistan.—The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions called on the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East to adopt a 10-point program to raise the living standards of that area of the world.

The program calls for development of agriculture and natural resources in the countries of the region with financial help and technical assistance from abroad and by the use of idle capital in the underdeveloped countries themselves.

The plan was submitted by Dhyan Mungat, ICFTU Asiatic representative.

Help preserve the peace—buy U. S. Savings bonds.

### HEALTH CO-OP

New York.—The Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, a non-profit prepaid medical care organization operating under the insurance law of New York State, provided professional services to 255,000 persons in 1950 through the medium of teams of medicos, better known as group practice.

David M. Heyman, chairman of the board, and Dr. George Baehr, president and medical director, in their annual report said that more than 200 business and civic organizations, as well as tens of thousands of city employes, are enrolled in the plan.

The employes of these organizations and their dependents receive comprehensive medical care for a cost amounting to a few cents a day.

# Big Business Mobilization Attempts To Play Farmers Against Workers

Denver, Colo.—The National Farmers Union turned down a "deal" whereby all wages would be frozen solid July 1 in return for a freeze on farm parity prices at the Jan. 26, 1951, level.

Labor Press Association said that the wage freeze would include suspension of cost-of-living clauses in union contracts.

The National Union Farmer, monthly publication of the liberal farmers' group, said the deal was offered to NFU President James G. Patton in Washington on March 5.

After consultation with his executive board, Mr. Patton rejected the deal in a blistering letter to Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston.

"We strongly recommend that your stabilization agency put an adequate tax program, including a stiff and inescapable excess profits tax, at the top of its list of projects," Mr. Patton wrote.

The "deal" on its surface shows that it was an attempt by big business, firmly in control of the economy of the country, to play workers against farmers and vice versa.

# Teamsters Sign 5-Year Peace Pact With New York Trucking Industry

New York.—A 5-year labor-management peace pact in the one-time embattled New York City Trucking Authority was signed at the office of Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, Washington.

The pact, effective immediately, between Teamsters Union Locals 807 and 707, representing 11,000 New York truck drivers, and the Motor Carrier Association of New York, Inc., representing 1,500 employers, provides for arbitration of all disputes over wages, hours and working conditions. In addition, the employers have agreed to terminate a $10 million damage suit in federal court against the locals and officers because of strikes in 1946.

Regarded as unprecedented in industrial relations is the specific naming of 2 high U. S. government officials—Secretary Tobin and Assistant Secretary of Defense Anna M. Rosenberg—in the labor-management agreement, both of whom are empowered to appoint arbitrators with final power to decide disputed issues in case of a deadlock between both sides.

Under the pact, both sides agree to the creation of a labor-management entity, known as the New York City Trucking Authority, to provide for arbitration of disputes, policing of the contract and establishment of a public relations and economic analysis program for the industry.

The Authority, comprising 6 representatives from industry and 6 from labor, will be presided over by an impartial chairman, to be named by Secretary Tobin. The 5-year peace plan defines his decision over "all grievances and disputes" as "final and binding on all parties."

Specifically excluded, however, from the impartial chairman's authority are unresolved controversies regarding wages and hours or provisions of the industry social welfare and insurance plan. In this area, which involves an annual wage bill of $40 million, Assistant Secretary Rosenberg has the contractual power to appoint from a panel, agreed upon by both sides, a wage adjudicator. The panel includes General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Rev. William J. Kelley, OMI, Murray Gurfein, Assemblyman Fred G. Moritt, Prof. Paul R. Hays, Judge Nathan E. Zelby and Charles Preusse.

The contract provides for reopening of wages, hours, pension and welfare provisions after May 1, 1952. At that time the arbitrator can investigate and hold hearings on disputed issues and is empowered to make a decision, binding on both sides, to last from Sept. 1, 1952, to Aug. 31, 1954.

The wage arbitrator can deal with the industry-paid social welfare and insurance plan provisions which at the present time provide for union members a $2,000 life insurance policy, a $2,000 accidental death and dismemberment policy, a $35 weekly accident and sickness benefit, surgical reimbursement benefit and Blue Cross hospital benefits, covering employees and their families.

TAKES WOMANPOWER POST.—Washington.—Miss Frieda Miller (left), chief Women's Bureau U. S. Department of Labor, congratulates former Rep. Mary T. Norton of Newark, N. J., as new womanpower consultant to Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin on recruitment, hours of work, safety, minimum wage and health standards of women workers in the nation's defense mobilization.

# Mrs. Norton Seeks Wage Rate For Job

Washington.—Mrs. Mary T. Norton, former congresswoman from Newark, N. J., and long-time chairman of the House Labor Committee, wants pay rates in industry based on the requirements of the job rather than on the sex of the worker.

She made this clear shortly after her induction as special consultant to Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin on womanpower.

Mrs. Norton began her duties with a meeting of the Woman's Advisory Committee on Defense Manpower on which the 2 AFL representatives are Miss Pauline M. Newman, educational director Union Health Center, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, New York, and Mrs. Stanton Smith, former vice president American Federation of Teachers, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mrs. Norton pointed out that women in the United States now form more than half of this country's total population and about 30 percent of its working population. They also account for half or more of all workers in a number of occupations.

"The committee will be concerned chiefly with reviewing and evaluating background information which will give us the necessary perspective for our new undertaking," she said. "Matters of importance in planning for the effective utilization of women workers in defense will be the long-time concern of the committee.

"This cannot be realized unless women are assured training facilities equivalent to those available for their husbands and brothers, full utilization of their skills, and opportunities for promotion when they prove their worth, with pay rates based on the requirements of the job rather than on the sex of the worker."

## GET $5 BOOST

New York.—Members of Local 60 AFL Delicatessen and Restaurant Countermen's Union ratified a new one-year contract with 500 stores and restaurants in Greater New York providing $5 a week wage increase and pension plan, effective March 15.

Other outstanding features of the new contract are 2 weeks paid vacation per year, 5 holidays at double time, sick leave with pay and time and one-half for all overtime.

The pension plan is a new feature which was added to the union's already established and functioning insurance fund which presently provides for its members $1,650 life insurance, Blue Cross hospital service, free medical care for the members and their families, as well as $25 per week sick and accident benefits for 13 weeks and up to $150 in surgical expenses. The cost of the entire program is being borne solely by the employers.

# Urge Minimum Pay For Agriculture To Halt 'Wetbacks'

New York.—Gladwin Hill concluded a series of five articles in the New York Times on the use of illegal "wetback" Mexican farm laborers in the Southwest with a suggestion that a minimum federal wage applying to agriculture workers might help solve the problem.

Mr. Hill's articles were based on a year-long, 5,000-mile tour of the U. S.-Mexico borderland where 1,000,000 Mexicans annually wade or swim the Rio Grande to work illegally in this country for peonage or slave rates of 15 cents an hour or less.

Mr. Hill discussed possible remedies to help solve the problem, which he said some sources felt was merely a matter of wage chiseling. He said in part:

"Organized labor in the United States, as expressed in repeated declarations particularly of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliates, contends that the agitation in the United States since World War II about obtaining alien labor generally has been an oblique effort to undercut American Workers, predicated on illusory 'shortages' of domestic labor. These shortages are said to result from a refusal to offer adequate wages.

"This contention is at least partially corroborated by a recent study at the University of Texas, previously cited in these articles, which concluded that the labor needs of certain key farm areas could, with adequate inducements, be filled entirely from within the state. This is contrasted to the present situation in which 'wetbacks' pour in by the hundred thousands, while domestic workers leave the state seeking in similar numbers to seek more adequate wages elsewhere.

"From labor and independent observers of the wetback problem, including educators, economists, sociologists and welfare and church agencies, the suggestion also has come that the wage chiseling that underlies the wetback influx might be obliterated by applying federal minimum wages to agriculture, at least in cotton, which is a government-subsidized crop around which much of the wetback traffic revolves.

"Farmers have long contended that minimum wages in agriculture are unworkable. But a minimum wage has long been in effect, under an exceptional federal law, for the sugar-beet crop."

# Chicago Building Unions Overhaul Structure For Paraplegic Vets

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent AFL News Service

Chicago.—It all started early in March when four young men in wheel chairs showed up at the monthly meeting of the Chicago Building Trades Council.

Their leader, Nils S. Josefson, explained to the 75-odd delegates that the quartet represented a new corporation, Paraplegics Manufacturing Co.

There were 63 stockholders, of whom only one is able-bodied—Josefson's brother, Bert. All the rest are paraplegics. They became associated while at the veterans' hospital at Hines, Ill.

Nils Josefson is president of the firm. He was a radio and electronics engineer, a graduate of the University of Houston, before he went to war.

It was Nils' idea to start up a factory. The young men found a one-story plant in Franklin Park, a Chicago suburb, which wasn't being used. They planned to make electronic, electrical and radio items for national defense. The paraplegics would not only own the plant, they would operate it.

"We don't want any sympathy," said Nils. "All we want is a chance to use our skill and our time in useful work."

Their pressing problem was how to put the building in shape for assembly-line operation. It was an old machine shop, with inadequate lighting, inadequate plumbing, everything needing to be done over except the shell and the foundation.

That was where the building trades council came in. A committee of business agents from each craft was appointed to look the place over and see what could be done.

The committee later reported back that the plant had been examined and the crafts would remodel it to suit. Each craft would supply both labor and materials—free.

The work is just beginning. Earl J. McMahon, secretary-treasurer of the council, is coordinating the program. Raymond E. Petersen, assistant business manager of the Plumbers Union, is directing "field operations." Other members of the committee are:

Thomas Allen, bricklayers; Charles Thompson, B. O. Lofgren and Ralph Hansen, carpenters; Edward Holzman, cement finishers; James Quinlan, electricians; John Mahon and Joseph Frankovic, ironworkers; Frank Derdel, laborers; James Hastings, lathers; Julius Skoglund, painters; Michael Scheffer, glaziers; Ray Petersen, plumbers; Charles MacDonald, pipe fitters; Byron Dalton, plasterers; Dean Moore, roofers, and Shannon Troutman, sheet metal workers.

"It's not charity," said McMahon. "In these times our country needs the brain and skill of every one of its 130 million citizens. The brain and skill of these young men should not be allowed to go to waste."

### ARMED FORCES TAKE MORE

London.—The armed forces are taking an increased proportion of young men out of British industry. By April, 800,000 men will be in the regular armed forces.

**Support the Red Cross Fund Drive generously!**

BAKERY WORKERS IN LINE.—Washington.—President William F. Schnitzler of AFL Bakery and Confectionery Workers (left) tells AFL General Counsel J. Albert Woll how his union will help carry out United Labor's declaration of principles to bring down high prices.

# 38 of 39 Unions Belong to Central

Lakeland, Fla. — The Polk County Central Labor Union, which is the city central body at Lakeland, reports a total of 39 unions in the county with 38 affiliated with the Central Labor Union.

Much of the credit of this work goes to Secretary T. M. Tillis, boilermaker, who has worked diligently and constantly on building the strength of the Central Labor Union. President Marion Wiggs and his entire executive board, of course, have worked hard and long in accomplishing a near 100 percent affiliation.

Secretary Tillis advises that the only remaining unaffiliated local union in the county is a relatively new Bricklayers Union at Winter Haven. He has been advised by President Harry C. Bates of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union that he has requested the Winter Haven Local Union to affiliate with the central body, which when accomplished will give the Polk County Central Labor Union 100 percent affiliation.

# BACK PAY RISE

Nashville, Tenn. — The Tennessee state legislature enacted a resolution calling on the Tennessee delegation in Congress to support legislation granting salary increases to postal employes.

The AFL postal unions are supporting bills that would increase salaries of postal and other government employes 17 percent.

The Tennessee legislature pointed out that these employes have had no pay boost since 1948.

### BRITISH JOBLESS DOWN

London.—Less than 1½ percent of all insured workers in Britain are jobless, and many of these only temporarily.

# Fred Erhard Named Apprentice Chief

Washington.—Fred W. Erhard, member AFL International Association of Machinists, has been named chief of the Division of Technical Services of the Bureau of Apprenticeship, United States Department of Labor.

This new activity of the Bureau of Apprenticeship is similar to the work of this agency during World War II. Under the direction of Erhard there are many refinements which will be beneficial to both management and labor.

The assistance to industry will be on a basis of assisting industry in meeting their problem of training employed workers. It will be a service which will give aid in the development of a training department where needed, assistance in practical arrangements for training the employed worker right on the job while he is producing. Methods of improving the skills of not only new employes but also in imparting habits and practices to older employes. Advice and assistance will be given on any specific training job.

The Bureau of Apprenticeship will continue the long-established policy of assisting industry with the improvement of their working force through technical advice on techniques and methods, but the actual training and control of such training must remain with management and labor.

Encouragement will be given to the use of Joint Training Committees, wherein management and labor will work as a team to meet the manpower needs through training. If operative jobs are a necessity it will be recommended on a controlled basis by management and labor.

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